three-tier AC Coaches in the trains running in Madurai-Bangalore section;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, not at present.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A C. 3 tier coaches being manufactured by the Railways are having air brake system and are being progressively deployed on trains getting converted into Air Brake.

Representations from Jamnagar

1494 SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether representations have been received from Jamnagar regarding extension of long distance trains upto Dwarka, increase in reservation quota at Jamnagar station and change in time schedules of Saurashtra Janata, Saurashtra Express and Intercity Express;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b): From time to time, representations are being received in this regard from Members of Parliament and others including Passenger Associations of Jamnagar.

(c) The extension of long distance trains upto Dwarka, Change in timings of Saurashtra Janata Express, Saurashtra Express and Hapa-Rajkot-Ahmadabad Express have been examined but not found feasible due to operational exigencies.

Regarding increase in reservation quota at Jamnagar, this station has been provided with a Passenger Reservation System (PRS) and has access to the entire quota on Mumbai PRS on first-come-first served basis. For the trains in which specific quota has been allotted after computerisation of reservation at Jamnagar, the quotas are reviewed periodically and adjustment are made on the basis of utilisation to the extent possible.

Forest Cover

1495 SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA
DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of reserve as well as total forest cover during 1985 and as on date, State-wise;

(b) whether deforestation illegal felling of trees at the rate of 47,000 hectares annually has brought down the forest cover in the country to ten per cent only;

(c) the main causes of the low percentage of forest cover;

(d) the impact of deforestation on environment and ecology of the area; and

(e) the effective measures/scheme being taken and proposed to be taken by the Union and State Governments to arrest the deforestation activities and increase the forest cover?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) The Statewise details of the forest cover for the period 1985-87, 1989-91 and that of reserved forest for the period 1987-89 are given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) As per the State of Forest Report, 1993 the area under the forest cover in the country is 64.01 million hectares which is 19.47% of the total geographical area of the country.

(c) The main causes for sub-optimal forest cover in the country are excessive biotic pressure with increasing human and cattle population, encroachments, lack of natural regeneration due to excessive grazing, shifting cultivation, forest fires, diseases, natural calamities like floods, droughts, cyclones, avalanches, etc.

(d) The impact of deforestation on environment and ecology of the area are as under:

- Land degradation and impoverishment of the soil due to heavy erosion caused by rain, wind etc.
- The loss of gene-pool, bio-diversity and wildlife habitats of great biological significance.
- Lowering of productivity thereby leading to lesser production of biomass for use of humans and animals.
- Extinction of rare and threatened species of plants and animals.
- Deterioration of life-support systems including water resources.

(e) The effective measures/scheme being taken and proposed to be taken by the Union and State Governments to arrest the deforestation activities and increase the forest cover are as under:

- Enactment of Forest Conservation Act, 1980 to regulate diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes.
- Implementation of Indian Forest Act, 1927 and Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 to check forest and wildlife offences.